Daugha and National Socialist Council of Nagaland) committed theft/pilferage from tank wagons in N.F. Railway. Petroleum products valued Rs. 15,30,083/- were recovered with arrest of 2 miscreants during the year 2008 in N.F. Railway. Rangapahar to Diphu section (31 Kms) are affected. There is no proper road for Rangapahar – Diphu section, only road available passes through deep forest and hilly area falls under Dimapur District of Nagaland and Karbi Along District of Assam in the border of Nagaland and Assam. The area is seriously affected with the activities of the militant organizations called DHD (Dima Halam Daugha) and NSCN (Nagaland Socialist Council of Assam), where even the required assistance is also not received from Police during the night hours.

(d) All the 4 Railway Employees, who were arrested for their involvement during the year 2007, over Western Railway have been prosecuted under the provisions of Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act and also were taken up departmentally.

Damage to foodgrains

†*273. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 104 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th October, 2008 and state:

(a) the time when his Ministry received information regarding damage to foodgrains amounting to 846 lakh tonnes in 2005-06, 726 lakh tonnes in 2006-07, 750 lakh tonnes in 2007-08 and 452 lakh tonnes till September, 2008 in 2008-09;

(b) the time when the above foodgrains were procured, the amount spent on its maintenance and the places where it was kept;

(c) the market price of damaged foodgrains, the amount spent on disposing of the same and the reasons for rotting of foodgrains at each place; and

(d) the officers held responsible for that?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The quantities mentioned in part (a) of the Question are not quantities of damaged foodgrains but the quantities of foodgrains handled by FCI/State agencies during these years. The quantities of foodgrains damaged in 2005-06 was 0.95 lakh tons, in 2006-07 was 1.13 lakh tons, in 2007-08 was 0.34 lakh tons and during April 2008-September 2008 was 0.07 lakh tons, totaling 2.49 lakh tons. During the above years, FCI/State agencies handled 2782.31 lakh tons of foodgrains, on maintaining which an amount of Rs.2567.46 lakh was spent. The foodgrains were stored in the godowns of FCI and State agencies in different parts of the country.

(c) The reserve price of damaged foodgrains accrued in FCI during 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 & 2008-09 (till September, 2008) is Rs. 157.48 crores and amount spent on their disposal is Rs. 1.12 crores.

The foodgrains were damaged due to various reasons, such as, cyclones and floods and some quantities due to acceptance of below specifications stocks and movement to other regions.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) 7 Category-I officers and 47 category-II & III officers/officials of F.C.I. have been found responsible for accrual of damaged foodgrains.

Ban on use of tobacco

*274.SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smokers emit cancerous smoke and pollute air;

(b) if so, the details of measures taken to eliminate smoking; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to ban use of tobacco in all forms?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) There are more than 4,000 chemicals in tobacco smoke. These include a number of toxic substance and carcinogens or cancer causing agents *viz 1,3-butadiene, Chromium VI, 2-Naphthylamine Ethyl benzene, 4-Aminobiphenyl Formaldehyde, 4-nitrobiphenyl Hydrazine, Acetaldehyde Methyl chloride, Acrolem N-Nitrosonornicotine, Aniline Nickel, Arsenic (inorganic) Nicotine, Benzene NNK, Benz[a]anthracene Phenol, Benzo[a]pyrene Styrene, Cadmium Toluene.*

The tobacco smoke exhaled by smokers *i.e.* second hand smoke is equally harmful and are known to cause among others:-

1. lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children), sudden infant death syndrome, acute respiratory infections, ear problems, and more severe asthma and low birth weight.

2. Disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke.

The tobacco smoke contains more than 4000 toxic constituents. These are poisonous gases *e.g.* hydrogen cyanide, Ammonia, Tolune, Butane and Carbon Monoxide, toxic metals *e.g.* Arsenic, Cadmium, Chromium and Lead and Cancer causing chemicals such as Vinyl Chloride Benzene, Formaldehyde and Polonium.

Active smoking (*i.e.* the smoke to which the smoker is exposed) leads to cancers of various organs such a lungs, larynx, liver, stomach, pancreas, kidney, cervix (women), urethra and bladder, leukemia (blood cancer) and other disease such as stroke, cataract, diminished health, coronary heart disease and chronic lung disease.

There is scientific evidence to prove that the persons who are exposed to second hand smoke (SHS) or Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) get disease and adverse health effects such as lung cancer and heart disease in adults and SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) exacerbation of asthma, acute and chronic lung disease and middle ear disease in children.

The Government of India has enacted a comprehensive Tobacco Control Act called "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" in May, 2003. The main objective of the act is to discourage the consumption of cigarettes and other tobacco products. The specific provisions contained in the Act include:

1. Ban on smoking in public places. (Section-4)

2. Ban on direct/indirect advertisement of tobacco products. (Section-5)